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THE

HISTORY

AND

MEMOIRS

OF

JOHN LIDWILL,

Eldeſt Son of THOMAS LIDWILL, *Eſq.*

Late of Clonmore, in the County of Tipperary;

Containing an Account of his *Induſtry*, EXPERIMENTS, *and* SUCCESS; *His Travels, Obſervations, and Providential Eſcapes; Alſo, his Misfortunes, Viciſſitudes, Sufferings, and Loſſes, interſperſed with* a Variety of other Occurrences *Uſeful and Entertaining, from his Birth to his Preſent Age of near* SIXTY *Years.*

WRITTEN and Selling BY HIMSELF.

DUBLIN:

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PREFACE.

MANY Friends having frequently recommended to me to publiſh my Hiſtory, at length induced me to do ſo, which probably may be acceptable, intereſting, entertaining and uſeful, as it will be found to be grounded on facts, and from different peculiar circumſtances, will appear as ſingular an Hiſtory as ever has been offered to the Public; and for the accommodation of the different claſſes in Society, I have been adviſed to publiſh it in Numbers, which I hope may prove to be a mode the moſt acceptable, eſpecially as it is intended to be of general uſe.

From the humane ſanction I have heretofore experienced from the affluent, and that moſt reſpectable and polite body, the Gentlemen of TRINITY COLLEGE, on a former occaſion, I am emboldened to hope for the ſame protection now, as it will appear in my Hiſtory, that I have not only exerted myſelf to be uſeful to the Community at large, but frequently endangered my life in the ſame laudable cauſe, without any other expectation of reward, than what reſulted from being conſcious I had acted rightly And truſt in Divine Providence that I never ſhall forget the great obligations I am under to the numerous reſpectable characters who generouſly aided my endeavours in the circulation of a uſeful and entertaining pamphlet heretofore publiſhed,

And am,

With great Reſpect and Gratitude,

Their moſt Sincere, Devoted,

And faithful Servant,

JOHN LIDWILL.

BRITISH MUSEUM 15 72 DEC

THE HISTORY

OF

JOHN LIDWILL.

MY Anceſtors in the male line both by my father and mother were born and educated in England; and as I have been informed were the ſons of reſpectable Families, officers of rank in Oliver Cromwell's army.

The firſt by my Father's ſide was called Liddil or Liddel and as I heard, were deſcended from a French family who came to reſide in England, in conſequence of troubles in France.

My firſt anceſtor by my mother was of the name of Cowley, of original Engliſh extraction.

The firſt by my father's ſide muſt have had a conſiderable ſum of money, as he purchaſed extenſive landed property in the county of Kildare in the neighbourhood of Caſtledermot, after the war in Ireland had been ended—but he had not been left long in peace and quietneſs until he was obliged to ſell his intereſts, and go farther up the country to reſide, on account

account of depredations frequently committed on his property by the Peaſantry.—His ſon or grandſon John Lidwill (my grandfather) was married to Eleanor Cooke, ſiſter to Thomas Cooke, Eſquire, of Pains-town, in the county of Carlow, with whom he got a large fortune. She was a very beautiful woman, and died about fifty years ago, at near one hundred years old; I ſaw her often when a child a few months before her death.

Her huſband my grand father, died before I was born, at near an hundred years old alſo. I have been told he was one of the ſtrongeſt men in Ireland, though not exceeding ſix feet high. The following ſingular anecdote of his ſtrength and courage may not prove unentertaining.——————His dwelling (being a ſtrong caſtle) was attacked by ſeven armed robbers, in the dead of night, who broke open the ſtreet door with iron crows and ſledges, which alarmed him ſufficiently to prepare for defence. He got down ſtairs with a large ſword or hanger in one hand and a candle in the other—a battle enſued, he eſcaped ſome ſhots, and without any aſſiſtance wounded ſeveral of them in ſo deſperate a manner, as left him conqueror, and forced them to retire precipitately. He had reaſon to ſuſpect ſome of his domeſtics conſpiring in this hainous attempt

attempt, as none of them went to his aſſiſtance. I now begin my own hiſtory with a circumſtance that happened near ſixty years back. When I was an infant: my mother was my wet nurſe, not from neceſſity, but choice, as my father was at that time poſſeſſed of upwards of two thouſand acres of land, the moſt part of which he had ſtocked with cattle, &c. he farmed it himſelf, and was then deemed worth above one thouſand pounds a-year in perpetuity.

My mother informed me after I was a grown boy, that one day in my infancy as ſhe was giving me ſuck a woman who was a ſtranger to her, entered her houſe, and after ſome familiar converſation, approached my mother, ſighed and ſhook her head looked ſtedfaſtly ſome time on me and ſaid, *it would be better for me I never was born.* My mother ſaid, I make bold to preſume that you are poſſeſſed of the gift of foretelling future events; the ſtranger anſwered in the affirmative. My mother requeſted ſhe would not be under any reſtraint, but declare her feelings candidly, which the ſtranger readily acquieſced to, on condition that my mother would not take offence at any thing ſhe might declare concerning me; and prophecied as follows:—

Madam, your huſband has it in contemplation to ſettle a large property on this boy that you now nurſe with ſo much care, but he never will poſſeſ-

or

or enjoy any part of it, but on the contrary, he will be diſinherited by his father who will afterwards become his greateſt enemy, and inſtead of being a friend to him, will do all in his power to prevent his upriſe. My mother got diſpleaſed, and ſaid that could not be ſo, as the principal part of my father's property was in right of her, and ſhe would take care he never ſhould have the diſpoſing of it, but would let me get poſſeſſion by heirſhip, according to her grandfather's will, if my father ſhould ever attempt to diſinherit me. But the good woman ſaid, *That my father would compel my mother to join him to diſinherit me, and all the children they might have, for they would jointly ſettle her property on their laſt child, which would be his favourite ſon, but ſhe would repent afterwards doing ſo,* which predictions were afterwards like the Goſpel truths fulfilled.

When I was about ten years old, I was inoculated for the ſmall-pox and became ſick of it. In a few years after, being placed at a ſchool in Clonmell, I took the diſorder again heavily from ſome boys in the ſchool and laboured under it a long time. I have ſince been informed of others who had the ſmall-pox twice.

In

In my childhood I had been too frequently entertained by the women ſervants and others with long ſtories about ghoſts that came from hell; theſe ghoſts were of every perſuaſion, (the women ſaid,) but Romaniſts—one appeared in the form of a magpie, others like dogs, hogs, horſes, &c. and all their puniſhments reſulted from their not being Romaniſts. One ghoſt in particular which had been one of the members of the Rakes of Mallow, appeared in the form of a monſtrous bull with flames of fire iſſuing from his mouth and noſtrils to three of his companions on a hill, and after a long converſation paſſed between them, the gentlemen returned and became Romaniſts. —They died and appeared again, and told they were in purgatory on their way to Heaven, but the big bull went back to Hell.

The doctrine of purgatory is abſurd and unſcriptural; beſides, ſuch a miſerable belief prevents the only way to bliſs, which is faith in God through Chriſt, by the Holy Ghoſt given.

In my youth I lived ſometimes in a manner amphibious which I find uſeful to me now as I often partook of the watery element with wild ducks and geeſe at night, in ſnow and froſt

froſt, with only water-dogs ſometimes as my companions.

But as the ideas of ghoſts and hobgoblins had been riveted in my mind by the ſuperſtitious women before, mentioned, I reſolved to endeavour to get acquainted with ſome of the people in the other world, that I might get ſome knowledge of what was ſo firmly repreſented to me, and not depend entirely on doubtful reports. Therefore I did not omit viſiting the neighbouring church yards at different hours, in my nocturnal amuſements (and that always alone, as the women ſaid a ghoſt never appears to two or more together) I frequently went from grave to grave and requeſted the dead to come up and ſpeak to me, but all to no purpoſe, as my importunities never prevailed—but one night particularly, my father having occaſion to ſend a letter of ſome conſequence to my uncle, who lived about three miles diſtant, which he would not entruſt to any one's care but mine, and forgot to ſend ſooner. I ſet off a ſhort way through fields on foot, in hope of meeting with ſome wild fowl on a marſh, and paſſing by a burying place, I did not loſe the opportunity of requeſting ſome of the people there, would anſwer my interrogatories (as the women ſaid a ghoſt cannot ſpeak firſt) but after calling in vain among the graves, I ſcarcely approached the dreary roofleſs old church, until I perceived a long white figure ſtand-

ſtanding up cloſe to one of the inner walls of the ghoſtly manſion, which I did not heſitate to examine; it appeared to be frequently in motion, and in alternate different forms; ſometimes near twenty feet high, or more probably my imagination magnified the object; again it appeared not to be four feet high, but continued to rattle an ivy tree which ghoſts are wont to haunt—At length I declared loudly that if it did not anſwer me I would ſhoot it; but not complying with my requeſt, I fired at the object, which proved to be an innocent buck goat that ran away roaring, and was found dead the next day. This made much noiſe in the neighbourhood for a long time, and afforded the ſuperſtitious, and the fairy women a moſt agreeable opportunity of goſſipping from houſe to houſe, telling wonderful lies, and ſmoaking tobacco, and probably ſerved as a ſtimulus to recall to their minds many valuable ghoſtly tales which had been told by their anceſtry, but through neglect had lain dormant many years. However I took ſpecial care not to divulge the ſecret until the ſtory of the killed goat was forgotten, leaſt I might bring myſelf into ſome trifling trouble, beſides interrupting the frequent edifying nocturnal debates of the ſkilful goſſipping women.

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When I arrived at the age of about ſixteen years, my father ſent me to the Reverend Mr. HARWOOD's ſchool, in Clonmell, in the county of Tipperary, where I remained about two years. Mr. *Harwood* was an amiable man in every reſpect—he was *affectionate*, *humane*, and *patient*, and univerſally liked and loved. His ſcholars had no fear of him, but what proceeded from love and reſpect, which his *wiſdom* and *goodneſs* obtained. He kept a plentiful table rather ſuperfluous. Mrs. *Harwood* was equal in every thing that was good—the boys loved her, and many of them probably better than their parents. Mr. *Harwood* had an uſher, the Reverend Mr. *Dennis*, who was poſſeſſed of every amiable quality, and drank deep in literature, he was the author of many excellent ſongs, and compoſed "*Britannia Loud Rejoice.*"—He went to live in *Durrow*, in the county *Kilkenny*, where he opened a *ſchool*. A few of Mr. *Harwood's* ſcholars followed him as well as myſelf, where my misfortunes commenced in conſequence of my own folly.

Mrs. *Dennis* did not poſſeſs the affections of the boys. Mr. *Dennis* was a man univerſally known amongſt the firſt ranks with whom he aſſociated, and much reſpected by all who knew him.

Mr. *Harwood* had another Uſher, the Rev. Mr. Carew, an amiable man in all reſpects.—He opened a ſchool in the *Queen's county*, near *Rath-*

Rathdowney and *Dunnaghmore*, where I partook of his hoſpitality as I paſſed through the country. He had a large ſchool of boys, and was worthy of it. Mr. *Harwood* had another uſher in my time, named *Gibbons*, he called himſelf Fitzgibbon, and was from *Hoſpitle*, in the county *Limerick*—a vicious fellow not poſſeſſed of a good quality—intolerably ſevere to the younger boys, and to all who did not ſupply him with halfpence to buy ſnuff, and uſed to ſteal their marbles at night, for that purpoſe.

He went afterwards to Durrow and married Mrs. Dennis's ſiſter, but was killed by a fall through a trap-door, where his back and neck were broken.

When I was about eighteen years old, I prevailed with my father to let me go to ſchool to Mr. *Dennis* in *Durrow*, (as mentioned before,) which moſt unfortunately for me he conſented to.—Had I attended to learning, inſtead of *misfortunes ſnares*, I might have finiſhed reading the *Greek* and *Latin* authors then in uſe, in half a year more, but I was unluckily enſnared to Marry into an artful deſigning family, that lived in the *Queen's county* near the town of *Durrow*, named Fitzpatrick, who frequently aſked a few of the ſchool boys of a Saturday evening to *Ballybooden*, (that is the name of the family reſidence) who always ſtaid till the

the *Monday* following, and then returned to *ſchool* to *Durrow* again. The walk was very pleaſant through *Lord Aſhbrook*'s *woods*.—The country all around *Durrow* formed a beautiful landſcape.

Mr. Fitzpatrick was an affectionate ſort of man tho' poſſeſſed of ſome oddities. His wife was a petty farmer's daughter, who lived in a cabbin on the land of *Clonmeen* in the *Queen*'s *co.* and farmed a ſpot of land from Lord *Oſſory*, her name was *Julian Connor*. She was of the *Romiſh* perſuaſion, and was continually boaſting of her high family, and blood, the purity of which no one could reaſonably diſpute as her anceſtors were all in the *Phyſical line*, either *Quack Doctors*, or *Apothecaries*, but not of any note. Her huſband *Patrick Fitzpatrick* was a good *Latin* Scholar, as he was educated to be a *Romiſh Prieſt*; but in conſequence of his father endeavouring to deprive him of the family inheritance for marrying her without his knowledge *Patrick* and his wife recanted from the *Romiſh* Church, and thereby fruſtrated his father's unjuſt intentions. —*Patrick* afterwards ſtudied the Bible attentively and from conviction lived and died in the principles of the *Eſtabliſhed Church*, but his wife went to her Daughter's to *Munſter*, and returned to the *Romiſh Church*, and died there. She died of a complication of diſorders which ſhe was never free from, viz. *pride*, *arrogance*,

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and contempt of the human race—ſhe was *mean, abject,* and *cringing to exceſs*—and aſſumed the *authority* of *tranſacting* her huſband's *affairs*, though weak in her underſtanding, and inadequate to every undertaking. She intercepted as many letters directed to him as poſſible, and wrote anſwers, though not capable of writing a line with propriety or common ſenſe, as all her letters conſiſted of *hypocriſy and flattery*. She in fact wiſhed to have him deemed an idiot—however he had known little of her preſumption, and if he had, he would not ſubmit to it.

As I before obſerved, I was ſeduced into deſtruction, by marrying one of the daughters of Mr. *Fitzpatrick*, her name was Ann, who with her mother, and an old ſcheming unmarried aunt, combined to delude me, when a ſchool-boy in *Durrow* at the ſame time a good match offered from a young widow in *Durrow*, who was then worth above ten thouſand pounds, but my father would not conſent on account of a difference of perſuaſion. She was a beautiful young woman, about twenty two years old, and *I* was near *nineteen*. However, if there be a predeſtination in ſome things, or all, it is impoſſible to avoid misfortunes. *Ann Fitzpatrick*, who was about my own age, was an artful, inſinuating Girl.—She correſponded with ſome of the ſchool-

boys

boys, on *matrimonial* ſubjects, and was weak enough to imagine that each kept the ſecret from the other, who, in conſequence, relinquiſhed all correſpondence.

I conſulted with a few confidential acquaintance about my intentions to get married to her, unknown to my parents, who all adviſed me againſt it, and ſaid, from the knowledge they had of her diſpoſition, they believed ſhe would make a very bad wife.

If misfortune and perſecution was decreed for me aforetime by the will or order of the Great Creator of all Things, I could not avoid them. I have read in the *Holy Scriptures* that GOD perſecutes them he loves, which I ſince found verified in me, and ſhall in a future page give ſome extraordinary accounts of the manifeſtation of the goodneſs of God to me, and his Divine protection in many dangers which accidentally happened me.

I had not power to avoid getting married to *Ann Fitzpatrick* unknown to my Parents, though I believed I ſhould be unhappy with her. My Mother who poſſeſſed all the good qualities of her ſex I had nothing to fear from; but my father no ſooner found what I had done, than he repreſented my tranſgreſſion to me in its true light, and deſcribed the art and cunning

cunning of the family who ſeduced me (which was true) and aſſured me, (as I was impoſed upon) if I would conſent to have my marriage ſet aſide, (as I was not then of age) he would ſettle *one thouſand Pounds yearly in perpetuity on me, out of the lands of Clonmore* where he lived and poſſeſſed in right of my mother, and as much more at his death, if I would marry a wife with his conſent—which I refuſed.

In a few days after, I returned to *Ballybooden*, and told the family there, how I rejected my father's propoſals, and inſtead of approving my conduct, Mrs. *Fitzpatrick* made anſwer and ſaid, *if I would conſent to any thing of the kind, I ſhould have duels enough with her relations.*

This provoked me to declare, I would put it to trial, from no other motive than her attempting to frighten me from what I refuſed, but with her uſual meanneſs ſhe apologized.

I afterwards experienced the moſt *hypocritical affection* in the family, until I was married by a ſpecial licence, when after a few days, I was induced by their *mean conduct*, to leave *Ballybooden*, and go home to my father, where I was well received. I informed him I received ſome diſagreeable treatment from my wife and her father's family, and ſhewing ſome ſorrow at what I had done.

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by marrying in a worthleſs family without his knowledge and conſent, he declared, *if I would agree to a deed of ſeparation, and return her father's bond for five hundred pounds which I had, he would conſider me as a ſon that had not tranſgreſſed*—however I requeſted time to conſider, and in the interim, he agreed that we ſhould live ſome time in his houſe during which nothing occurred but the death of our firſt child, through the careleſſneſs of his nurſe, by putting damp clothes on him.

My father ſhortly after had it in contemplation to diſinherit me of the property he poſſeſſed by my mother, which ſhe enjoyed under her grand-father's will, and was ſettled on the *male line for ever*, and on the female in caſe of no male iſſue—and for the purpoſe of getting the title and power of diſpoſal veſted in himſelf he intended to propoſe to my mother to levy a fine, &c. for that purpoſe; but as he had ſome reaſons to doubt ſhe would conſent to ſuch unnatural propoſals he had it in contemplation to have me *tranſported to America, with a view to deprive me of inheriting my birth-right, in right of my mother, as male heir.*—He previouſly reaſoned with me and declared, he never would do more for me than paying his bond which I had for five hundred pounds, bearing intereſt,

(To be Continued.)

and, if I conſented to go and reſide in America, he would apply to the then Earl of Hilſborough to get me an employment under the Crown, and obſerved, that I could purchaſe an eſtate there with my wife's fortune and mine, which jointly made a thouſand pounds, and would bind himſelf to remit me five hundred pounds a year for two years more—this I agreed to.

He accordingly came to Dublin, applied to the Earl of Hilſborough, and ſettled this buſineſs to my ſatisfaction; but, in the interim, my wife's father prevailed on me to refuſe this propoſal, by perſuading me it was not affection induced him to take all that trouble to ſettle me in a foreign country, but to deprive me of my birth right, which I would certainly poſſeſs at his deceaſe, if my mother continued ſtedfaſt to my intereſt, and not levy fines, &c. My father conſequently was much irritated at my fruſtrating his unnatural intentions, after laying himſelf under obligations to his Lordſhip (who was then Secretary of State to His Majeſty for the Northern Department) and had intereſt to get any reaſonable favour required in his Lordſhip's power, as he paid him above three hundred pounds a year for a farm near the town of Thurles, in the County of Tipperary which he rented from the late Sir William Cowper, who was his ſecond couſin; and were it not for

want of wiſdom and prudence, I would have inherited a good part of Sir William's eſtate, who poſſeſſed a friendſhip for my father, and an attachment to his intereſt.

One time he came to Dublin to pay Sir William the firſt rent, who requeſted he would ſend him a hogſhead or two of cider from the County of Limerick, but he ſent him half a dozen hogſheads of the beſt Cacaga cider, and in ſome time after, having occaſion to come to town again, he gave him four hogſheads more of the ſame quality. Sir William inſiſted on paying for the ten hogſheads, but he refuſed accepting payment, which probably encreaſed Sir William's friendſhip for him. Sir William had no heir to inherit the eſtate of Cormuckſtown, near Thurles, which he let to my father (and is now worth near a thouſand pounds a year); but my father, who was his neareſt relation, except a gentleman of the name of Cowper, a more diſtant one, who diſobliged him, but was heir to the family eſtate that Sir William enjoyed for his life only. Sir William had houſes and other valuable acquiſitions beſides the eſtate of *Cormuckſtown*. He made known his friendſhip for my father, and after enquiring into his circumſtances and number of children, told him he would provide for his eldeſt ſon better than he could himſelf, and if he would reſign me to him, ſhould conſider me

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as his ſon, and leave me all the acquiſitions and property he poſſeſſed that was not entailed, and deſired he would ſend me to him to Dublin, as ſoon as he returned to Clonmore.

My father had not the ſagacity to embrace ſo friendly and lucrative a propoſal, but ſaid he would accept the favor offered if agreeable to my mother, which he communicated to her on his return home, who importuned him not to loſe any time, but embrace, as ſoon as poſſible, ſo advantageous a propoſal, which he heſitated about, and in a few days after wrote a letter of thanks to Sir William, and unfortunately *declined accepting his liberal offer ! !*

I was then about twelve years old.—Sir William wrote him in conſequence a very angry letter, in which he declared, he or his children never ſhould benefit more by him than the bargain he gave in the leaſe of Cormuckſtown; and to ſhew his reſentment to my father's ingratitude, mentioned that he would will his property to ſome ſtranger, which he did to the then Earl of Hilſborough, for life only, and afterwards to a gentleman in the County of Kilkenny, provided he ſhould have iſſue, but not otherwiſe, and to whom after I know not, but who were in no wiſe related to him.

Having omitted ſome circumſtances, not occurring more timely, which happened when I was at ſchool in Clonmell, that may be entertaining and novel to many of my Readers, I ſhall take the liberty of placing them here.—I had an opportunity then of ſeeing the duel fought between Daniel Gahan and Thomas Prendergaſt, Eſqrs. in which the latter was killed—I ſaw him die on the field. He was ſhot in his left ſide, I believe in his heart, which was owing to his retiring in an unguarded poſition after the firſt fire, as Mr. Gahan advanced on him to fire his ſecond piſtol.—The Cauſe of diſpute was as follows:

At an election, then held in Clonmell, for members to ſerve in Parliament for the County of Tipperary, theſe gentlemen voted in oppoſite interiſts—Mr. Prendergaſt conformed to the eſtabliſhed church from the Romiſh perſuaſion, ſome time before the election; after he voted, Mr. Gahan required he ſhould take the freeholders oath, which Mr. Prendergaſt did; notwithſtanding, Mr. Gahan told him publicly he was perjured, and would turn again to the Romiſh perſuaſion after the election, which Mr. Prendergaſt reſented, and ſent a gentleman to Mr. Gahan with a challenge to give ſatisfaction for the offence by combat, which Mr. Gahan accepted. They met accordingly, fired at each other, and after Mr. Prendergaſt fell he really, as Mr. Gahan predicted,

called

called frequently for a clegyman of the Romiſh perſuaſion to adminiſter to him, but died before the prieſt arrived, and was carried away on men's ſhoulders into Clonmell, which is about half a mile from the field this duel was fought on, adjoining the River Suir.

Mr. Gahan acted with that great precaution as if he was inſpired with a fore-knowledge of what was to happen in this unlucky rencounter; the River Suir, which runs through Clonmell, divides the two Counties of Tipperary and Waterford, but the aſſizes town is in the County Tipperary, as there are but a few houſes on the County of Waterford ſide. The duel was fought in the County of Waterford. Mr. Gahan had a ſmall boat placed cloſe under the bank of the river oppoſite the Willow Iſland, ſo called from a plantation of ſallows: after Mr. Prendergaſt had fallen, Mr. Gahan got into the boat, and croſſed the river, which is about one-eighth of a mile wide, and landed on the oppoſite bank, in the County of Tipperary, where his ſervant waited with horſes to carry him to his country houſe.

The banks of this river, down to * Carrig-on-Suir, and ſo on to Waterford, are beautifully adorned with woods, groves, and gentlemen's houſes,

* Carrig is a ſort of englifying the original Iriſh word Corrig a Rock, all the Towns or places in Ireland of the name Carrick or Carrig are from the ſame Iriſh word.

houſes, on the mountains, hills, and lawns on each ſide, which form a moſt pleaſing view, eſpecially to travellers by water.

Many of the wealthy inhabitants of Clonmell ſend great quantities of flour, corn, potatoes, &c. down the river in large boats to Waterford, and get back ſea coal, iron, and other neceſſary articles in return, but as there are many ſhallows in the river, the boats cannot bring back one-fourth of the weight that otherwiſe might be obtained if the river was deepened.

The Quakers are the principle actors in this trade, and have expended many thouſand pounds in extenſive buildings of various kinds, and other expenſive but uſeful improvements in Clonmell. They give employment to a great number of poor people, and have created a general ſpirit of induſtry in both Counties as well as in Clonmell, which in a great meaſure deſtroys that licentious ſpirit the poor are prone to when unemployed.

The Quakers are remarkable for encouraging a ſpirit of induſtry, morality, and religion every where they reſide—they are exemplary in their dreſs, dealing, and moral conduct—they compoſe the pureſt Church on earth—they educate their children in the fear and love of God, in a knowledge of the Holy [illegible] of the everlaſting goſpel, laws, and commands

commands of the Almighty—they are peculiar and choſen people, formed by the Spirit of God, true worſhipers in ſpirit, according to the ſacred writings, whoſe Church is ſanctified, being pure, unadulterated, and free from ſuperſtition, nonſenſe, and abominable ceremonies, invented, increaſed, eſtabliſhed, and forced on the conſciences of God's enlightened people, by the iron hand of human ignorance, and wickedneſs—in ſhort, the Quakers carry a bleſſing into every part of the world they inhabit.

The River Suir is remarkable for the beſt and largeſt freſh-water Salmon in Ireland. I ſaw them ſold for two-pence a foot in Clonmell, about forty three years back.

The following uncommon circumſtances can be now corroborated by ſome of the relatives of the acting parties. About forty years ago, in the month of Auguſt, in the neighbourhood where I was born, I accompanied two friends, Meſſrs. Spunner and Lalor, on a ſhooting party; a ſpaniel dog ſprung a woodcock from a thicket, which Mr. Spunner ſhot, and made a diſh at dinner as a rarity and curioſity to a company of about a dozen people at Mr. Lalors: it was remarkably fat.

The ſame month I was in queſt of young grouſe in the bog of Caſtleiny, being a part of

the bog of Allen, when a pointer dog rouſed up a wild gooſe from a bog-hole where long ſedge was growing, which I ſhot ; it was very fat, though wounded by a former ſhot, which probably rendered it unable to return to its native country with its companions when the Spring ſeaſon arrived for their deſtined departure from Ireland.

When I reſided at my father's, after my unluckey marriage, I wrote copies of all his moſt material papers unknown to him, as he then began to importune my mother to levy fines &c. to deprive me of my birth-right ; but ſome trifling difference happening between him and me, induced me to go and ſpend ſome time at my brother-in-law's, Joſeph Maſon, in the County of Limerick.

After I returned I took the houſe and demeſne of Ruſhall from Mr. John Humphreys, attorney, of James's-ſtreet, deceaſed, containing near an hundred acres of land, with a large bog annexed, between Mount Rath and Borris in Offory, in the Queen's County, where I commenced farmer, and became very induſtrious, (his brother, Thomas Humphreys, of Windſor, near Ruſhall was married to my firſt couſin, Mary Harriſon.) I ſoon began to try experiments in farming and agriculture, and ſtall-fed a few bullocks the common way with hay, &c. which anſwered well ; ſome were

ſold

ſold in Dublin, and more in Mount Rath, Kilkenny, and other country towns, which produced a better proportionable profit than the cattle ſold in Dublin. I Spring fed ſome ſheep with hay and graſs only, which paid tolerably.

Some poor farmers in that neighbourhood fattened ſheep in Spring with red buck potatoes boiled, which ſold remarkably well—they told me they got from twelve to fifteen ſhillngs a ſheep profit in leſs than two months, as boiled potatoes fattened them in half the time that any other food did which farmers commonly gave their ſheep in Spring; though they allowed them hay, they eat but very little when accuſtomed to the boiled potatoes. They told me a large hog would eat as much potatoes as ſix large ſheep, and twenty ſhillings was accounted then a good profit by fattening a large hog; there was another advantage by the ſheep, which was the manure they made in the yards where they were fed, being of the richeſt kind, but that made by ſwine the pooreſt—there muſt be an extraordinary increaſe in the fleece beſides. I never made this experiment, but from what I have heard and experienced in other modes of Spring feeding, if generally practiſed, the profits would be found ſo proportionably great, that pig-feeding would be totally omitted; beſides, there is but little nouriſhment in ſwines fleſh, it being cold, hungry, and unnatural food,

and

and forbid in the ſacred writings; it impoveriſhes the blood, and creates ſcurvy.

Here I had ſome potatoes planted in a ſmall part of an orchard that produced nothing but weeds—the ſtalks grew up above a yard long, which I got a man to mow down with a ſcythe to about ſix inches the end of June, after that I ſet men to dig up and put a covering of earth on the potatoe beds, which produced a good crop in November following.

At another time I got a few furows drilled and ſowed with oats, which were lightly earthed with a ſmall plow the beginning of June following, and a heavier one in about three weeks after. The corn was good, and ripened ſome weeks ſooner than the oats ſown adjoining at the ſame time in the common way on ridges with a harrow. I impute the ripening of the drilled oats (ſooner than that on the flat ridges) to the influence of the ſun's heat on the freſh plowed earth, as the flat ridges not being ſtirred from the Spring ſowing, conſequently contained ſome graſs and green weeds on the ſurface, which probably repelled the ſun's ripening influence. The oats on the ridges was neither ſo luxuriant, nor the grain ſo large and heavy as that on the drilled rows, which were about a yard aſunder. It is neceſſary to remark that there is not any certain period of time for earthing corn in rows,

rows, but according to its growth as the ſeaſons differ, ſo does vegetation ſome ſeaſons earlier than others.

A thought occurred to me ſoon after to try another experiment on a part of the ſame oats-ſtubble field, which was to try if it would produce a crop of wheat without manure or any other common preparation. I got about a quarter of an acre drilled adjoining the old furrows, immediately after the oats was cut and carried away to another part of the field; the few drilled rows which produced the oats that ſeaſon was not plowed or ſtirred after the corn was cut down—in the month of November following, I got wheat ſowed and plowed in all the furrows, including the ſtubble drilled furrows, and the whole was levelled with a large gate drawn by one bullock, led by a ſmall boy acroſs the rows, and left ſo until March following, (the boy being light was allowed to ride the ox in the work), when in dry weather, a man with one bullock and the plough put about three inches high of earth to each ſide of the wheat in the furrows, which remained ſo for about two months more; there was a ſort of baſket placed on the bullock's mouth, to hinder him from eating the young growing corn, but ſo wide and long as to allow him full liberty to breath—the bottom ought not to have more than ſeven or eight twigs acroſs, as the beaſt might be ſuffocated if wo-

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ven cloſe. I believe a man might draw a light machine in that caſe with eaſe the firſt earthing, and probably a plough could be contrived that would raiſe up earth to both ſides of the rows at the ſame time.

In a few days after the firſt earthing, the young corn ſhot up ſtoutly; but not being ſatisfied with the pleaſing proſpect of a good crop of wheat, I reſolved on a further experiment, which was to manure one or two rows of the corn: having got a ſmall tub with ſome aſhes, ſoot, &c. mixed in it, a man ſtrewed it on two of the rows, cloſe to the growing corn the beginning of May—I ſtood by until he finiſhed it.

The plough was immediately ſet to work as before, but there was a heavier coat of earth put on than the firſt; the reſt of the rows were earthed the ſame day, and was the laſt dreſſing given for the ſeaſon. When the harveſt time arrived the wheat was very good, and ripened as early as wheat ſown in that neighbourhood a month ſooner, and earlier than ſome others, but the rows that were manured were much ranker than the others, and not ripe for ten days after the reſt was cut down, but the entire was ſuperior to any in the neighbourhood.

Not

Not being ſatisfied with this ſucceſsful experiment, I reſolved to try if the ſame ſtubble land would produce a third crop by the ſame treatment as before, without allowing any reſt or preparation;—accordingly I got wheat ſown in the ſtubble furrows without a ſingle preparatory ploughing, and treated it exactly as before, except the advantage of a third earthing the end of June following; but all the rows had a very trifling layer of ſtable dung put on (though apparently next to nothing) previous to the ſecond earthing; this crop was ſuperior to the former if it poſſibly could be. By this kind of management the ſame land would produce a crop of wheat every year.

My next experiment was to improve a ſmall piece of bog, but I firſt conſidered, as I had not a leaſe of my farm, nor any proſpect of one without compulſion, nor any intereſt in my holding, and Mr. Humphrey's had but his own and his brother's lives, who were then old men, of his leaſe from the head landlord, it would be great folly in me to attempt making any expenſive improvements, which I otherwiſe would if I had a perpetuity on all the commonage, which might contain near an hundred acres; I began to think of leaving Ruſhall on that account, and taking a leaſe of ſome other improveable farm, however I had about an acre of bog ploughed with oxen,

(horſes

(horſes cannot) in ſummer, and after the ſurface was dried and burned, the aſhes was ſpread over the ſame, and hay ſeeds thrown on, by which ſimple proceſs only, it became a good meadow. I am of opinion that all the bogs, mountains, moraſſes and waſtes in Ireland might be improved for ſo trifling an expence, that the profits the firſt three years would more than pay both principle and intereſt, and as far as my judgment and experience will allow, I give a ſketch of my thoughts on ſo important a ſubject.

I will begin with the improvement of *Mountains*.—I have known ſome gentlemen go to ſuch enormous expence in this branch of improvement, that the profits never would pay them, and got ſo diſguſted at the trouble and expence, as to relinquiſh and deteſt the idea of any further improvement. I know another who undertook the improvement of thirty acres of mountain, a part of his own eſtate, and, like many others who I ſaw make ſimilar improvements, expend great ſums of money unneceſſarily, preparatory to the main buſineſs. His firſt object was to make a large bank round the ſquare park he intended to improve, with a great dyke at both ſides, which coſt more than the fee ſimple if it was really profitable arable or paſture land that did not require any improvement, which gave him ſo great a diſlike to proceed further, that he left the

the unprofitable void within for years before he revived his intention to improve it.

The method he then took was more expenſive than banking it around.—The ſurface being light, and only a few inches over a yellow ſtubborn clay, he had it fallowed, which took two years plowing and harrowing (being a heath ſurface) before it was ſufficiently pulverized; he then got lime and other manure carried ſome miles to meliorate it, and laid it level with one crop of barley and graſs ſeeds, and convinced me the whole proceſs from the beginning coſt him a thouſand pounds, to improve thirty acres of his own eſtate;—however, it is now worth above two guineas an acre, and fattens large bullocks, but he never made any further improvement there, though he poſſeſſed above three hundred acres of the ſame unprofitable mountain.

I rode with him over the entire, and propoſed the following experimental improvement on the reſt, which then, on a calculation could be made worth twenty ſhillings an acre, by expending ſix hundred pounds on three hundred acres, which would amount to a return of three hundred pounds a year, being fifty *per cent.*—the plan was, to plough the mountain in winter in ridges about ſix feet wide, carefully turning down the heath, which ſhould be ſettled or levelled by men with ſpades

ſpades after being ploughed; the Spring following the furrows were te be dug, and an inch or two of the clay ſpread on the ridges, on which graſs ſeeds ſhould be ſown, with a ſmall quantity of rape ſeed, and left waſte until Auguſt following, when it would feed ten ſheep an acre for three months, and one ſheep an acre from November to May following—in two years after the furrows ſhould be dug again, and a freſh layer of earth thrown on the ridges, which would nouriſh and enrich the graſs. It may be objected that clay might not be got in every furrow, but, in that caſe, pits ſhould be ſunk in the moſt convenient high places, and clay carried in carts where wanting. It may be objected again that the ſheep might be killed in the furrows—but, to obviate that trifling danger, the land could be ploughed broad caſt, and ſeveral pits ſunk, and clay carried away, and ſpread all over the ploughed land.

The plan I now recommend may be beſt of all, but undoubtedly the cheapeſt; and is, not to plough the mountain, but cover the heath ſurface with earth taken out of pits, and ſow on graſs ſeeds. Clay certainly deſtroys heath by laying it on the ſurface. This cheap method will make it a good ſheep walk, and by putting on a layer of clay every third or fourth year, will always meliorate it.

There are ſeveral other ways of turning waſtes to profit. Many have planted bogs with Fir or Deal trees, which grow larger in ten years, than on firm land in twenty. Suppoſe a waſte Bog or Mountain, planted with trees at two yards diſtance and computed at a guinea a tree, at the expiration of thirty years, which is a reaſonable calculation, would be near two thouſand guineas an acre. As moſt gentlemen who plant groves or woods, never conſider what part of the earth dug out ſhould be firſt put back again, the young trees are frequently annoyed by weeds and graſs.

In planting a grove on a heath Mountain, the beſt way of going to work, would be firſt to plough up the ſurface, and before the young trees would be planted, the holes ſhould be dug two yards ſquare and a yard deep: the heath ſurface that was ploughed off, ſhould be put down firſt with the heathy ſide under, and the plant ſet on that; then the black ſtuff and the clay (if any) mixed well, and put over that, about the plant and pounded hard. Some ſteep Mountains and high hills contain rich red brown earth, which would enrich the Vallies below, if covered with it, and produce great meadows.

What I ſaid before relative to the improvement of Bogs, may be ſufficient; which is only to drain, plough off, and burn the ſurface; ſpread the aſhes over,

and ſow hay and rape ſeeds to fatten ſheep. I have ſeen ſome men get clay or gravel, &c. put on Bogs to improve them, which is too expenſive and ridiculous.

Heath might be turned to good profit, if pulled up and given to ſtore bullocks in winter alternately with hay, and if any of the turf adhere to the heath roots, it will not injure the cattle, as I have ſeen bullocks eat dry ſods of turf.

The following narrative relative to the great utility of hazel, as winter food for cattle, may not appear diſagreeable to experimental farmers.—A farmer told me once, that on his return to the country from Dublin, his horſe tired, which being ſummer time, was induced to let graze awhile on the way; though there was good graſs, the horſe prefered the leafy tops of ſome hazel branches that projected over the ditch of the road; the owner having previouſly taken the bridle bit out of the beaſts mouth, ſtrove to force him to eat the graſs, but prefering the hazel buſhes, induced the owner to climb up on the hedge and cut plenty, which he threw to the horſe until he had eat ſufficient: after he rode awhile, found the horſe more refreſhed and ſtouter than if at graſs all the day. He rode twenty three miles after, without perceiving him fatigued in the leaſt; but ſaid, he ſtopt at three or four places on the way, for a few minutes only, to refreſh him

him with the ſame ſort of food, and declared, he believed he would not perform the journey (of above forty miles) had he given him oats ſo often.

A gentleman who had a hazel-wood of about eighty acres, generally kept about forty bullocks there in ſummer, and put on ſheep immediately after ſhearing, till November, or until the wool had grown ſo long as to endanger its being pulled off by the buſhes; the wood prevented the winds from checking the growth of the graſs, which was generally near a foot high againſt November, and ſupported eighty ſtore bullocks well, without hay to May following. He afterwards let the ſame to poor farmers, who dug out the hazels and cultivated the land, manuring it for many years, which had been again laid down for graſs, but never ſupported half the number, uſually kept there, when in the wild ſtate of a wilderneſs.

If Mountains and barren lands were planted with hazel, aſh, and ſhrubs that cattle would eat, they would pay three pounds an acre yearly or more, inſtead of remaining in an unprofitable ſtate.

While I reſided at Ruſhall, my mother uſed to come and ſtay a few days with me; ſhe told me my father perſecuted her greatly, becauſe ſhe would not conſent to deprive me of my birth right, by levying

fines, &c. to veſt him with a power to ſettle her property (mentioned before) on their youngeſt ſon, of four, named Thomas, who is the ſame that had the unfortunate ſuit at Naas with Mrs. S——n, in the year 1800. I conſulted an attorney by her directions, to know if ſhe could ſettle her eſtate on me, unknown to my father; but he told me, ſhe could not make any ſettlement in my favor, while my father was living. In ſome time after, ſhe told me again, he threatened her life and treated her with ſome violence, and that ſhe feared he would compel her to veſt him with the power required over her property, which he did.

About the ſame time, my father-in-law's bond became due, and I applied for payment, but from a litigious diſpoſition, and under the falſe pretext of getting a ſettlement made on my wife; he made an affidavit before a maſter, and filed a bill for an injunction to ſtop the payment; which I told my father, who offered to make an adequate ſettlement on her: notwithſtanding which, her father proſecuted the ſuit againſt me, above a year and a half, when I caſt him; but he never paid the coſts, nor required any ſettlement to be made on my wife.—Her mother pretended to be an Arbiter between us, and thereby retarded my proceedings, when at the ſame time, ſhe wrote letters to her attorney, to uſe expedition againſt me;

me; and employed others to write to my attorney to corrupt him, who encloſed me their letters, which I ſtill have.

While I attended the terms againſt my wife's father, ſhe plundered my granary, wool-room, &c. to the amount of about an hundred and fifty pounds, though little the better, as them ſhe employed defrauded her. She diſpoſed of about ſixty barrels of my wheat, in Mountrath, and received but twenty ſhillings a barrel, though wheat was thirty-five ſhillings a barrel there at the ſame time, and near fifty ſhillings in Dublin, from whence I hurried home to ſend it, but found I had been plundered of more than would have paid my year and half's rent, about which ſhe pleaded the utmoſt innocence; but one of my cottiers, named Daniel Egan, diſcovered the entire of this iniquitous buſineſs, not from a principle of honeſty or a remorſe of conſcience, but becauſe he was more unconſcionable in his expectations, than the reſt of the robbers, ſhe diſmiſſed him; and having found he diſcovered this buſineſs, ſhe threatened to have him aſſaſſinated. My workmen got ſo corrupt under her influence, and committed ſo many petty depredations on my hay, corn, potatoes, &c. that I was obliged to part with them to diſadvantage, at an unſeaſonable time, and employ periodical labourers at advanced wages.

She

She never acknowledged to a penny of this ill got money, but denied it with an effrontery peculiar to herſelf.

Her impudence and inhumanity did not reſt here, I kept a tutor in the houſe for the inſtruction of our children; they told me, on my return home from Dublin, that they were cut and mangled cruelly by him, and ſaid, they told their mother ſo frequently, who never reproved him, or attempted to prevent his inhumanity and cruelty. I examined the little innocents, the eldeſt of whom, was not ſeven years old, and found what they related to be melancholy facts; which (for theſe, and other reaſons) induced me to diſcharge him. I lived here ſeven years, and found in the end, that I forfeited my birth-right, for an ungrateful woman, who poſſeſſed all the imperfections of the ſex; to particularize which, would only *hinder the ſale of my hiſtory.*

A farm held by Mr. F——d, a reſpectable gentleman in the neighbourhood, being out of leaſe and advertiſed to be let; ſhe encouraged me to bid for it, and by doing ſo, I incurred the diſpleaſure of a reſpectable family, which on conſideration, I was ſorry for: and now, for awhile ſhall leave her,—her worthleſs family,—her father's old coach and grey mares, that were originally black.

About

About this time, I took a farm from Sir Thomas Maude, (who was afterwards created Lord de Montalt,) containing near an hundred acres, in the County Tipperary, on which I made ſome improvements, but it proving too dear, I ſurrendered it, and he generouſly allowed me amply for my trouble and expenſe:—Sir Thomas was a good landlord, a friend and protector of the honeſt and induſtrious, a terror to improper and wicked people, but a peculiar bleſſing to the County he repreſented; I had the favor of being much in his eſteem, and had the honor to ſpend many pleaſant days with him, in Dundrum; he offered me a good bargain of about five hundred acres of land, near Dundrum, and to expend five hundred pounds as a free gift, in building a dwelling, &c. for me, but I was hindred to accept of it, by them who were meditating my ruin the ſame time, under the falſe maſk of friendſhip.

A farm named Roſs, near Rathdowney, and a part of the eſtate of L—d O—y, having been advertiſed in the Leinſter Journal, to be let on pleaſing terms, and mentioned to contain about five hundred and fifty acres, with a large improveable commonage, catched my attention; perceiving ſo great a ſcope for improvement, and flattering myſelf with the hope of a good profit reſulting from my intended induſtry, if I ſhould be declared the tenant; I accordingly

I accordingly propoſed for it, and was declared the tenant, at the lump rent of five hundred pounds a year, and ſixpence the pound, receiver's fees; when on getting the poſſeſſion, I ſoon after ſtocked it, and ſet about draining and improving, as there was a large tract of wet impoveriſhed land in the farm. However I happened to be ſo unfortunate as not to have the ſagacity and forethought to get it ſurveyed before I began to improve it, by which neglect I ſuffered greatly after.

I made large drains through ſwamps, bogs and quarries, which after being compleated, meaſured near ſeven miles, and coſt me more than a thouſand pounds.

The ſtock of cattle, not having ſufficient graſs, in proportion to the rent, and the land being diſtempered, I loſt above a thouſand pounds worth, ſo that I ſuffered by this farm, in leſs than two years, by improvements and loſſes of cattle, above two thouſand pounds; excluſive of building a dwelling-houſe and offices, walling a garden, and other encloſures, planting many thouſand young trees, in hedge rows, &c. according to promiſe.

I then, when too late, got the farm ſurveyed, and found it ſhort of the advertiſement above one hundred acres, and having found myſelf ſo reduced by theſe omiſſions and misfortunes, as not circumſtanced

to

to hold the lands any longer. Therefore, I concluded it to be my beſt way, to remonſtrate and lay a true account of my ſufferings, and the cauſes, before his Lordſhip, to induce him to conſider my large family, which I then had to ſupport.

His Lordſhip, who reſided and ſtill does in London, acted with that humanity and tender conſideration, which he has always been ſo remarkably honorable for, on every neceſſary occaſion, and wrote to his agent in the Queen's County, to take the purport of my letter into his ſerious conſideration, and to allow me amply for my improvements and ſufferings, and to let me quit the farm (which I reſided on) fully ſatisfied; and to bear on his Lordſhip in my favor, if I ſhould be any way diſſatisfied with his agent's propoſals to redreſs me; and in caſe of a failure of this mode of proceeding, to refer the buſineſs to ſix gentlemen farmers of my approving individually, and no others, ſworn on their oaths; (this is the purport of his Lordſhip's letter, which his agent ſhewed me to read;) accordingly on our diſagreeing, ſix affluent gentlemen out of many were choſen by me, ſome of whom were my relations, and all my particular friends, who after examining cloſely into the nature of the buſineſs, awarded me one thouſand pounds only, for my buildings and improvements, but did not allow me any recompenſe for the loſs

of

of my ſtock, or my time ſpent in meliorating this farm; and after two years indefatigable induſtry, I was neceſſitated to relinquiſh with about one thouſand ſix hundred pounds loſs; and I really believe had I been awarded three thouſand pounds, which I abſolutely was entitled to, (as the rent was deducted out of the thouſand pounds awarded me,) his Lordſhip would have been better pleaſed than at what was done.

The original tenant was reſtored to the farm, at two hundred pounds a year leſs than I agreed to pay; though it was acknowledged by the referees, who always had known the quality of the lands, that I had by my improvements, made them one hundred pounds a year better than when I took the poſſeſſion. The cottiers on the land would have given me above one hundred pounds a year profit, even at the high rent I paid, if I was not in debt to his lordſhip, by which it plainly appears, that the original tenant gained above three hundred pounds yearly by my induſtry, and from the riſe of lands ſince, which is about thirty years ago, the profit is now more than double, which if merit took place, ought to be mine, but I always believed that all things have been originally and providentially decreed. I made no agricultural or other experiments here, except the planting of three acres of graſs potatoes,

red

red bucks, preparatory to ſow bere or wheat the winter following, in preference to the abhorrent mode of ſummer fallow. The potatoes were as good as poſſible.

While I reſided here, my brother Mark Lidwill, who lived at Anfield, near Thurles, came and ſtaid a few days with me, which I conſidered as an affectionate viſit, and not with the inhuman and unnatural intention to defraud me of five hundred and fifty pounds, in the height of my diſtreſs; which he was impowered and directed by our father, to ſecure to me, by bond and warrant, payable at a ſhort date; and to go with me to L—d O—y's agent, to give this ſecurity to extricate me from the arrear I owed his lordſhip, in order to enable me the better to apply for an abatement, in conſideration of above one hundred acres deficiency according to the advertiſement in the newſpapers, for letting thoſe lands, and which I found afterwards would have ſucceeded, and confirmed me in my holding which I was very unwilling to leave, not knowing where to go with a numerous family, and in the month of march; if my brother had honeſtly executed this commiſſion from our father, but he never told me a word of this buſineſs, but went back to our father and told him he had given me his bond, &c. for five hundred and fifty pounds as directed; and our father having his bond for fifteen hundred pounds, in conſequence

ſequence of my brother's marriage ſettlement, gave him a receipt for this money, he pretended to have given me, which he never gave, nor ſecured, nor even apprized me of the buſineſs. My brother Mark having married in Limerick, got ſecurities as a marriage portion with his wife, fifteen hundred pounds, which by agreement, my father got, and ſettled about a thouſand pounds a year, moſtly perpetual on him, who, though poſſeſſing this fine income clear, was mean enough to defraud me as before mentioned in my diſtreſs, with a numerous family. It was in conſequence of an early application I made to my father, for this ſum of money, to make terms with L—d O—y, that he ſent my brother in haſte to get it ſettled, as I had made the propoſal to his lordſhip's agent, in conſequence of my father's promiſe, which was accepted of.

Being unavoidably neceſſitated to take ſome place at any rent immediately, I importuned my brother Mark to let me have between two and three hundred acres of ſome of the lands that he had got from my father, for one year, called Liſtileen, on which there was plenty of graſs, at twenty ſhillings an acre, which though too dear, he conſented to, and I conſequently removed there, and repaired an old dwelling and offices, which he never conſidered me for ſince. This place being only four miles from

from my father's, I went there one day accidentally, when in various converſation, he upbraided me with tricking him out of five hundred and fifty pounds, under the pretence of ſettling with L—d O—y, and mentioned all the particulars of my brother Mark's embaſſy to me, when I lived in Roſs, at which I appeared juſtly aſtoniſhed, and declared that was the firſt time I ever heard a word concerning ſuch a tranſaction, and that my brother never opened the buſineſs to me, which my father diſbelieved, and cauſed ſome warm altercations between us; in a few days after my Brother applied to me, to ſay I had refuſed his bond in Roſs, and prefered caſh, and that if I would tell my father ſo, he would give me the five hundred and fifty pounds in ſix months in caſh, which I refuſed, and ſaid I would not deviate from truth, but if he would then ſecure me the money, I would mitigate the buſineſs with our father, and allow him the year's rent out of the bond beſides, all which he refuſed, as his intention was to defraud me of this money, and only wanted time to lay a feaſible plan, for the completion of his fraudulent ſcheme. Here we parted, and he went and told my father, that he had offered me his bond, both when I lived in Roſs, and after I took his land and went to live there, and that I was ſo unreaſonable I would not take any ſecurity but caſh: but that he would leave me the land until it would clear off this debt, which pacified

my

my father, though, when his rent became due, he ſeized my cattle, and took them away at his own valuation, which I agreed to, though they might have ſold for ſome trifle more, but he never paid me a penny of the five hundred and fifty pounds.

My father getting cool on this buſineſs, ſuſpecting I might be troubleſome about my mother's eſtate, was reconciled to my brother Mark, and encouraged him to perſecute me: I had not been two months ſettled in Liſtileen, when he ſent the head landlord's driver to ſeize my cattle for his running half year's rent, which neceſſitated me to give the drivers a douceur, and I heard no more of that affair. My domeſtic perſecutions affected me the moſt of all, my wicked wife making me as unhappy as poſſible, and importuning me conſtantly to go and try my fortune in America, and leave her all our property to ſupport the children, which in ſtock and ſecurities might be about two thouſand pounds, and go pennyleſs; (for ſhe would not give me a ſhilling if ſhe had power over it;) which I was convinced ſhe would turn to a very bad account: but from her's, and my father's, and brothers Mark and Thomas's inhuman and unnatural behaviour to me, I was eaſily perſuaded, and had not our children attached my affections, I would readily go away to the oppoſite part of the world, from ſo ungrateful and inhuman an hypocrite, which all that

were

were acquainted with her, had known her to be; and was it not for her threats and unpardonable abuſe of me, of late years, I would in regard of her offspring have brooked with her unpreſidented behaviour, while we cohabited, and not trouble the public with an account of ſuch a vagabond as ſhe always wiſhed to be.

She perſuaded me by perſecution to agree to go to America, and take a wilderneſs there, and on reading in the Kilkenny newspaper, of about forty thouſand acres to be let for ever, in the iſland of St. John's, on which were villages and cleared lands, belonging to General W—h of Ballykilcavan, in the Queen's County; I went to him, and agreed for his eſtate there, and got his title deeds and all material papers to peruſe, he told me many enchanting tales, and among others, that a man with a gun could ſupport a family of forty people, by ſhooting wild bulls, cows, deer, &c. which with wild fowls, were there in abundance; having ſimilar information from geography previouſly, I panted with a fervent deſire to get ſettled there, and after a few years I determined to return for my children, but not for their abhorrent mother. I was to enjoy it ſeven years free from any rent, or other charges, and the eighth year to pay a penny an acre, and to advance a penny an acre yearly, until it roſe to ſixpence, and then to ſtop at that rent for ever.

Now

Now my ingenuity was ſet to work, I traverſed the County of Tipperary for ſettlers, and ſucceeded in getting volunteer families, to the amount of near a thouſand, and could get many thouſands, if I encouraged them, or would defray a ſmall part of the expenſe of the voyage, which they offered to reimburſe me for in courſe of time; I laid in about an hundred pounds worth of beef, pork, bacon, butter, &c. for my own uſe only, and promiſed to accompany my adventurers, and ſwim or ſink with them; they were to have as much of the land as required, on my terms, except to riſe to five ſhillings the acre, and ſtop at that rent for ever, which in courſe of time, would yield me a profit of four ſhillings and ſixpenſe an acre, when the entire would be all ſet, excluſive of the great profits the towns and lands adjacent were theoretically to produce.

Fate ordained that I ſhould have more unfortunate dealings with my brother Mark, to whom I ſold the ſtock of cattle on the farm, and took his bond for the ſum of about four hundred pounds, payable before I intended to ſail for St. John's iſland, in Canada, in North America. This I done in the heat of hurry, in hope of making a rapid fortune for my children, and gratifying the woman who merited and gained my abhorrence; however I ſettled verbally with General W—h, and promiſed to ſign articles

at

at a time appointed, but when the time had drawn near for my embarkation, my brother or any other perſon who owed me money, had not a ſhilling to give me, or any thought of paying me. About this time I went to a gentleman of fortune in the country, an intimate acquaintance and friend, who had been an officer of rank ſome years in the ſame iſland of St. John's, and gave me ſo frightful a deſcription of the iſland, as to prevent me from ever thinking more of going there; he ſaid that whenever the king's troops were ordered from the iſland on any ſervice, that it was ſubject to the incurſions of the Indians, from new Scotland and Canada; who never failed to murder all the ſettlers on the iſland and take away their property, which happened ſo frequently that no gentleman or perſon of property could or would reſide there, or any others but fiſhermen; beſides the climate being ſo ſevere as to prevent all efforts of agriculture, and the ſnow and froſt continued eight months in the year.

Some time before this, I remonſtrated with my father on his injuſtice to me, and intending to ſettle his properties on my Brothers, and he gave me his bond and warrant for the five hundred and fifty pounds, bearing intereſt, which I gave to an attorney to enter judgment on; but he neglected doing ſo, until after my father had made over all his properties on my

brothers. I then wrote a letter to my brother Thomas for payment of this bond, as he got my birth right, and his anſwer was that he would pay me, but he never did though it is now above thirty years ſince, but the judgment has been regularly revived, and I have my brother's letter of promiſe, but never could prevail with any gentleman of profeſſion to proceed on it.

My father and brother Tom combining againſt me, declared that neither of them would ever pay the contents of the bond, leaſt it might enable me to ſue Tom for my birth right, my mother's eſtate which he poſſeſſes. In conſequence of my expectations of being paid peaceably, being now fruſtrated, and immediate enforcement neceſſary, I gave the bond to a confidential friend who iſſued execution againſt my father and arreſted him, but my brother Tom reſcued him from the parties, who came to Dublin immediately after, made an affidavit and a motion in court, by the late councellor Ridge, about twenty ſeven years ago, and the neceſſary proceedings are on record, but my numerous family diſcouraged and prevented me from proſecuting the ſuit ever ſince, and my brother Tom taking every advantage ſerved me with different ſubpœnas about what I know not.

Previous

Previous to this or near thirty years ago I went to my mother and upbraided her with depriving me of my birth right by levying fines, &c. when she told me that she had bound my brother Tom on Oath to give me two thousand pounds on his getting the possession of Clonmore, but on my requiring him to pay or secure it, he would not do either, and taking her home some presents of cloaths and other baubles from Dublin she gave him absolution for five hundred pounds, however I insisted on getting as much as I could secured, suspecting her holiness might be persuaded to assume the power of absolving him by degrees from the entire, I sent a gentleman who persuaded him to secure eleven hundred pounds for my children with interest, which interest was made payable to me until they arrived at age, by which he absolved himself from four hundred pounds more, he paid me the first half year's interest without any trouble, but I had trouble enough to get the second half year's, and after the third I got no more since, there is about eight hundred pounds due to me on this business.

When I lived at Rushall I joined my father in bond debts for near a thousand pounds, which he borrowed from different gentlemen, and on my convincing my brother Tom that he had a right to extricate me from them debts as he got my birth right, he passed me a bond of indemnity

to protect me from all his father's debts, but in a few years after, he broke through all his obligations, and got executions iſſued againſt my ſtock, which coſt me at different times above fifty guineas as huſh money to ſub-ſheriffs and their deputies to protect my property.

After returning general Walſh his papers, and apologizing ſufficiently for diſappointing him by my not going to the iſland of St. John, I reſolved to take a farm in the County Tipperary, and to ſet about eſtabliſhing ſome property for my children; therefore I took a leaſe of a farm containing between three and four hundred acres, for the lives of my three eldeſt ſons, two of whom are ſtill living. There were about one hundred acres of low, wet, very poor land in this farm that did not yield graſs ſufficient to rear a beaſt to three acres, after viewing I found there was no way to cut off the head ſprings that periſhed it but by cutting a wide and deep dyke through a hill at great expenſe of about forty perches that intercepted the line of about a mile long, which I laid out for the completion of this work, and anſwered my expectations, beſides making a ſtrong and convenient diviſion in the farm.

(It is well known to many experienced country gentlemen that there are ſpring waters that enrich, and others that impoveriſh except by irrigation, which is a moſt valuable

valuable diſcovery but might be brought to greater perfection than the preſent general modes, and that is by tubes, ciſterns, pumps and levels; by this mode water might be forced from the loweſt rivers to the higheſt hills, but at ſuch an expenſe as I am not competent to judge, nor ſhall I ever attempt to calculate. Let thoſe who enjoy many thouſands yearly, make the experiments if they pleaſe, or others ſimilar with improvements, and if the crops ſhould not pay the expenſe amply, they will conſequently relinquiſh a looſing experiment.)

The year following inſtead of poor, coarſe, ſhort graſs, this improved land yielded rich herbage. A few acres that I had encloſed for a meadow excluſively, I got a bank of uſeleſs earth that lay on a hill, drawn away and ſpread on this ſmall encloſure, which produced a meadow the ſame year near a yard long of moſt excellent fine graſs fit for horſes, and would ſell then for four pounds the acre from not being worth four ſhillings before. I planted thorn quicks and timber trees in the breaſts of the banks of all the encloſures.

After repairing an old rotten dwelling and offices which was the firſt expenſe I went too, I expended above five hundred pounds the firſt year meliorating this farm.

My next undertaking was to encloſe about forty ſquare acres of the upland for the purpoſe

poſe of manuring and tilling being exhauſted and poor on which I had a draw lime kiln built; here were two ſides encloſed with the original fence which being very bad I had repaired, a third was well fenced with a part of the long dyke through the hill before mentioned, and the fourth I had a ſix feet wall made to more than half, and a great dyke, bank and hedge to the remainder, as I always wiſhed to have permanent work done in all theſe kinds of undertakings. The entire was originally divided into five unequal fields, with bald banks which I ſowed broom and furze ſeeds on: this preparation coſt me above an hundred pounds.

I walled in a hay yard, garden and cattle yard for making manure. A field of about nine acres I had apple potatoes planted into, in beds of ſix or ſeven feet wide and about forty perches long. Rape and other ſtraw being ſpread over the yard, about one hundred heads of cattle were confined therein every night, the weather being wet I did not wait to gather the litter to ferment, but had it drawn out on cars in about a fortnight after being ſpread on the yard, and laid on the potatoe beds that had been previouſly ploughed and ſowed, then the beds were trenched the common way over the wet ſtraw. The end of June following I made an experiment on two beds, viz. I got men out and covered them well

again

again with another coat of earth, not having any regard to the plants, which were moſtly broken with the ſpades and ſhovels in the experimental operation. The autumn following they proved to be the largeſt and beſt potatoes in the neighbourhood, and the two beds that had been covered a ſecond time were very much the beſt. A laborer dug out with eaſe half a tun weight in a day. The ſecond field which contained about the ſame number of acres and not ſo poor, I had fallowed for rape to feed ſheep on, after taking out ſome limeſtone rocks that anſwered either to build or burn for lime, but the rape ſhot up very poor, ſhewed a bad proſpect, and turned to no account. The third field of about four acres I had ploughed into beds of about ſix feet wide, and got a ſprinkle of half made dung, and trenched wheat thereon, which was too luxuriant and did not ripen early. The quantity of dung that had been put on the four acres was not ſufficient for one acre of potatoes planted the common way in beds.

The fourth field being a lime ſtone gravel and very poor, I treated exactly in the ſame manner of the wheat field, and trenched in bere which was rather luxuriant, and contained about four acres alſo; a piece of low or moory ground which had been ſufficiently drained by the great dyke before mentioned, and adjoining this bere field, I got ploughed (for the firſt time ſince the flood of Noah by appearance) which

which was very difficult being overrun with moor willows, called in Iriſh ridhouge, and oats trenched on, which was indiffirent, from having no manure or covering but ſtubborn yellow clay; but the ſpring following it was ploughed again which mixed the black bog ſtuff with the yellow clay, and oats had been trenched in the moſt part and harrowed into the remainder, the latter turned out poor and about half a crop and the ſtraw ſhort, but the trenched oats were long and good corn. I dont doubt but the crops would be better for a few years more, as the clay and bog ſtuff would be mixed, the land would be meliorated and enriched.

The fifth field is the meadow already ſpoken of, on which the clay had been put and was divided by the great main dyke, except a few acres of upland that I had well dunged. About an acre of level bog oppoſite this (the dyke dividing) and about ſix feet deep was ploughed very deep with bullocks, this ſurface which produced nothing but a great coat of heath was chopt with hatchets, ſpades, &c. into turf, which made pleaſant but not laſting fireing; cabbage plants had been then ſtuck down into this bog without being ploughed or dug or any other preparation whatever; they grew very ſlow and ſtunted, nor did the ſtalks grow ſufficiently to allow earth to be put to them, to haſten their growth; however

however I got ſtable dung put to ſuch as could be got round, and clay to others for experiment ſake, and the bog ſtuff was ſcraped off with a hand hoe and put to others, the plants began to grow well and all were earthed again with the bog ſtuff; coming November the cabbages that were manured with the ſtable dung and clay, were equally good and throve well, but the others very bad.

Adjacent to this I walled in a fourth part of a ſquare of about twenty acres, three of which were previouſly fenced; this wall was very expenſive, being obliged to be built with blaſted rocks, this being moſtly a bog, I had the heath ſurface ploughed off thin and burned, and rape ſeed ſown; the crop flouriſhed, but a few days before it was cut down, ſome malicious people broke the bounds wall, and drove cattle through it with dogs; I could not get any ſatisfactory intelligence of the perpetrators, but had been privately informed that it was done by ſome of the original tenants, though they had been refuſed the land when out of leaſe at any rent, they were ſo diſliked. Notwithſtanding the injury done to the rape field I had about twelve barrels the acre.

The next crop after the rape, was apple potatoes drilled in a part, and oats ſown in another part, both were exceeding good; my intention was to take a few crops more

and

and lay the field down with graſs ſeeds, which I believe (from experience) would have became a good meadow as the bog mould and yellow clay by that time would be well mixed together, and where the deep bog was burned it would be better; but my perſecutions were too great to continue there, though my intereſt would be worth now a pound or guinea an acre. I was ſurrounded on all ſides by petty farmers, who were all thieves without a ſingle exception; they frequently broke down the bounds and poured on from one to one hundred heads of cattle on my graſs, and as often as I would pound them they would ſteal my cattle and retaliate.

On a part of this farm, about ſix acres of a ſhallow bog had been encloſed by one of the former tenants, the ſurface was ploughed off and burned, and left in heaps of aſhes by him, about three years before his leaſe expired as I was informed. I got the aſhes ſpread and ploughed in, and had rape ſeed ſown thereon in Auguſt, which was about three months after my commencement; the plants were the moſt luxuriant that I had ever ſeen, and there was ſtock enough for twelve acres, which induced me to think of manuring a ſmall fallow (previouſly prepared for wheat) and removing ſome of the plants into it, but an unexpected circumſtance happening immediately after, put a ſtop to this intended experiment.

A gentleman

A gentleman in the neighbourhood who owed me ſome money happening to die, I applied to his widow for payment, who anſwered that ſhe was not obliged to pay his debts; I importuned her as ſhe had known the money to be fairly due, to let me have cattle for the debt, even at a high price; after conſidering for ſome little time, ſhe told me there were about one hundred rotten old ewes on the demeſne, and that I might take them at a valuation; but obſerved that they were greatly injured by being drove to different fairs to be ſold, and that many died on the way returning home, and ſeemed unwilling to give me even the rotten ſheep for the debt; however we agreed for ſix ſhillings and ſix pence each ſheep, but her father coming in he obliged me to conſent to allow nine ſhillings each in the debt, well knowing that I had no other remedy but law and uncertainty, as the widow did not intend to adminiſter, and they ſaid beſides, that all the property had been aſſigned over to creditors. Seeing that I had no other proſpect of ever being paid, I conſented, and the ewes were ſent home to me, which was about eight miles diſtant. The drivers told me on the way that there was not more offered than ſix ſhillings each in any fair for them; and before they got home to me ſeven died on the way.

They were put into the rape field immediately after arriving, but the next morning

ſix

ſix more were found dead, and the ſecond night three more died, when the mortality ceaſed, except one more that died in about a week after, and I was well pleaſed to ſuffer the loſs of only ſeventeen in all. In February following I ſent for butchers, and ſold the remainder between that and the March after, from eleven to ſeventeen ſhillings each by which I gained about fifteen pounds, but loſt the expected profit by the rape field; this happened about twenty five years ago, and had I preſerved the rape field after ſelling away the ſheep, I might have had a middling crop of ſeed from the ſprouts, as the ſtalks were not injured. I am confident that early rape would pay well by putting on about ten ſheep to an acre. I had a great crop of turnips after the rape, which I got taken off and put into pits, and given to ſheep or cattle occaſionally, which is the beſt management, as an acre of turnips thus managed will do four times the ſervice that they do in the common deſtructive way of putting ſheep into turnip fields, and conſequently rot them by eating the earth with the turnips, which alſo hinders the increaſe of tallow.

This brings to my memory the account a poor farmer gave me once of his management and method of feeding ſheep, he houſed them in the winter nights and wet days, and having a long trough, he waſhed, wiped dry, and chopt the turnips with a

ſpade

ſpade in the trough for the ſheep, and by that management he ſaid an acre of good turnips might fatten forty ſheep, but he gave them boiled buck potatoes cold beſides. I believe an houſe is too warm for ſheep, and that a yard with ſheds all around, would be much better and cooler, beſides they eat leſs food and fatten ſooner when kept in a comfortable ſituation, than if left out expoſed to the inclemency of various weather.

Here I had three acres of a wheat ſtubble ploughed and manured for cabbages, one acre was manured with dung, another with bog ſtuff, and the third with lime; all of them got two ploughings and two harrowings, and a third ploughing alſo into drills, as I propoſed ploughing in the plants, which being done the land remained ſo until the plants were fit to be earthed, which was ſhortly after planting, as they made very quick growth; I did not put on the dung until the laſt, being the drill ploughing. I had a large ſtrong bull that ploughed and drew the car or cart very kind; I ſet the bull alone to earth the cabbages with a light plough, and contrived a baſket with a few ſtrong twigs at the bottom, (widely woven to let him breathe eaſy,) to hinder him from eating any of the plants. A man and boy earthed about half an acre a day, but afterwards when the heavy earthings were neceſſary, a bullock

was

was put behind the bull to help him; when vegetation ceaſed the cabbages were cut off with a hatchet cloſe to the earth, leaving the ſtalks as long as poſſible, and drawn into the hay yard and ſtacked, with a layer of dry ſtraw between each layer of cabbages. There was little difference between the cabbages of the dunged acre and the bog mould acre, both were good, and ſeveral cabbages of each weighed above twenty pounds, but the limed acre was very bad.

I fattened thirty cows one year, in the moſt ſingular, cheap, expeditious and effectual manner, ever attempted perhaps either before or ſince; theſe cows had not been bought in before December, and even then only ſtore cows very poor. They were eaſily put dry, and that very uſeful and profitable ſervant the bull before mentioned accompanied them occaſionally, but was not permitted to partake of their luxury. In the morning the cows got boiled, cold, red buck potatoes, at the rate of a quarter of a ſtone to the hundred weight that each cow was computed to weigh: in about an hour after each cow got a ſmall ſieve of chaff, (as I ſaved the chaff of all my corn for this and other ſimilar purpoſes,) in the courſe of the day they were fed again with uſeleſs leaves of cabbage that were of no value, and at night hay was given of which they eat very little, they had water

given

given both morning and night, I tried the effects of potatoe water both luke warm and cold, which purged and ſickened them; they were all ſold off fat, the Eaſter following, and paid from one hundred to two hundred per cent. profit; beſides all the dung they made was worth fifty per cent. more at a very low calculation. One cow which produced the greateſt profit, I bought for two guineas and a half, and ſold her for eight guineas, the butcher that bought her declared that ſhe produced near ſeven ſtones of tallow.

I ſhall now give an account of the ſimple apparatus and proceſs for this work. At the end of an old barn I had a brewing pan that contained three barrels, ſet up about eighteen inches higher than the floor, (which I occaſionally had malt brewed in for beer,) with a few ſtone ſteps to aſcend; at either ſide there was an empty corner that held the boiled and unboiled potatoes. I beſpoke a very large iron ſhovel, with holes made through like a riddle, to take the potatoes out of the pan when boiled, which a laborer toſſed with great eaſe into the corner allotted for them, and put the raw potatoes afterwards into the pan with a large baſket.